THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) At present, while the mills under NTC are producing controlled cloth, the Handloom Sector is implementing Janata Cloth Scheme for providing cloth at affordable prices to the poorer sections of the population.

(d) During the year 1987-88, the NTC mills produced about 107 million sq. meters of controlled cloth while the Handloom Sector produced about 489 million sq. meters of Janata cloth. While the controlled cloth is distributed through retail outlets and authorised dealers of NTC and also through NCCF|State Cooperative Federations, Janata Cloth is distributed through the public Distribution System as well as state handloom and other agencies.

International Trade Fair, 1988

1701. SHRI P. N. SUKUL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main features of the International Trade Fair, 1988;

(b) what are the names of the countries that are taking part in the Fair; and

(c) what steps are being taken to boost trade turn-over at the Fair from foreign buyers/organisations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) the scope of the fair covers industry, agriculture and science and technology. Two special themes being projected are "Two and Three wheelers" and "Homes & Shelters". A "Toy Mela' has been organised on the occasion of Pandit Nehru's birth centenary celebrations. A special display on "watches and clocks" manufactured in the country has also been arranged.

(b) A statement is attached. (See below).

(c) The period from November 15th to 18th was reserved exclusively for business visitors. Besides, the morning hours on other week days has been reserved for business visitors. Trade delegations from a number of countries have been invited to visit the fair under coordinated arrangements. Specialised seminars are being organised in order to provide for an exchange of ideas on technical matters. A separate Business Information Centre has been set up in Pragati Maidan to attend to business inquiries. Facilities and information for business negotiations are being provided during the business hours.

Statement

Names of the countries participating in India International Trade Fair, 1988 at National/Company level

1. Afghanistan
2. Bangladesh
3. Bhutan
4. Brazil
5. Bulgaria
6. Canada
7. China
8. Cuba
9. Cyprus
10. Czechoslovakia
11. Federal Republic of Germany
12. Finland
13. France
14. G.D.R.
15. Holland
16. Hong Kong
17. Hungary
18. Italy
19. Japan
20. Kampuchea

21. Laos
22. Nepal
23. Pakistan
24. P.L.O.
25. P.D.R.Y.
26. Poland
27. Romania
28. Singapore
29. South Korea
30. Sri Lanka
31. Sweden
32. Switzerland
33. U.K.
34. U.S.A.
35. U.S.S.R.
36. Vietnam.

Modernisation of silk industry

1702. SHRI D. B. CHANDRE GOWDA: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have since considered the silk industry's demand for modernisation, etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details of the demands of the silk industry; and

(c) what action is contemplated by Government on these demands?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI RAFIQUE ALAM): (a) to (c) In order to supplement the efforts of State Governments for modernisation of the silk industry, the Central Silk Board (CSB) has set up a net work of R&D units for propagating modern and improved techniques of mulberry cultivation, seed production and silk-worm rearing to improve productivity as well as quality of silk production. Similarly through the Demonstration-cum-Training Units set up by CSB, modernisation of the silk reeling and processing industry is being promoted.

With a view to encourage modernisation of the silk reeling processing and weaving industry and keeping in view the requirements of the silk exports sector, the Government have permitted the import of 27 silk machineries under OGI in the new Import-Export Policy 1988—91 with duty concession. Further import of 2 more silk machineries has recently been allowed under O.G.L.

Decline in exports of traditional agricultural items

1703. SHRI HARVENDRA SINGH HANSPAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the exports of traditional agricultural items have declined considerably during the past few years;

(b) if so, what are the main causes of decline in exports of agricultural items; and

(c) what further efforts Government propose to take to boost the export of agricultural items particularly to Europe?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. R. DAS MUNSHI): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In order to boost exports, incentives have been given for various items of agricultural exports in the form of CCS, REP and duty concessions on packing material. Pepper and coffee have been exempted from export duty. Further, to boost exports sustained efforts are made through visits of trade delegations and participation in food fairs and exhibitions held in Europe.